

Louisville Conference

The symposium for science writers, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, received wide press coverage. Two statements were issued in connection with stories relating to tobacco stories by both Tobacco Institute and Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

NEW YORK POST
New York, New York
March 29, 1960

Hint 'Safer' Cigaretts on The Market

Louisville, Ky., March 29 (AP)—"Safer" cigarettes may already be on the market, and a cancer researcher says he hopes to learn if they really are safer.

These safer smokes may be those containing only one-fourth the nicotine and one-half the tar content of standard non-filter cigarettes, said Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, director of statistical research for the American Cancer Society. No brand names were mentioned in Dr. Hammond's report.

A vast, six-year study of more than 1,000,000 Americans, now under way by the ACS, examining many health factors and habits, may show whether those who switched to the "safer" cigarettes actually live longer, Dr. Hammond told a seminar for science writers.

Dr. Hammond said: "It appears that the majority of Americans want to smoke, but they want to do so without running the risk of lung cancer or any of the other diseases associated with cigaret smoking."

Safer cigarettes would at least reduce the dangers he's worried about, the scientist said.

[A tobacco industry organization scoffed at the cancer researchers' reports and accused the scientists of continuing "an anti-smoking campaign" although "a great deal of other scientific evidence and opinion doesn't back them up."

[Edward F. Ragland, vice-president of the Tobacco Institute, Inc., said the "talks about a 'safe' cigaret" was not new, "but what is new is the admission by scientists at this same conference that they don't know of any compounds present in tobacco smoke in sufficient amounts to account for human lung cancer."]

THE WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D. C.
March 29, 1960

Deceit Seen On Hazards Of Smoking

By a Staff Reporter

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Mar. 28 Dr. Alton Ochsner, noted lung surgeon, today charged the tobacco industry with deliberately trying to confuse the American public on cigarette smoking hazards.

The tobacco industry, he told an assemblage of science writers here, is ignoring scientific evidences, and is trying to put the blame for lung cancer's explosive increase on other factors, such as air pollution.

"If air pollution were a significant factor," Dr. Ochsner said, "one could not explain the difference in the sex incidence — women certainly breathe the same air as men."

Primarily Male Disease

Dr. Ochsner further pointed out that lung cancers occur with "tremendous frequency" in both London and Copenhagen where "the inhabitants smoke excessively, but where there is a wide variation in the degree of air pollution in the two cities."

Cancer of the lung, he said, is still primarily a disease of the long term cigarette-smoking male, but it is beginning to increase among women. The male rate is disproportionately higher because men first took to smoking cigarettes heavily about 1917; the women didn't so indulge until the mid and late 1930's.

The insidious part about lung cancer, he pointed out, is that by the time it is detected and diagnosed it is usually too late to arrest it.

He praised the American Cancer Society for trying to inform teen-agers of the smoking hazards before they acquire the smoking habit.

"Once one has begun smoking," he declared, "it is extremely difficult and at times impossible to quit."

IA spokesman for the Tobacco Industry Research Committee told the Associated Press: "Our position is and has been that much more knowledge about cancer and especially lung cancer is necessary before positive conclusions about the cause or causes can be established. This position is shared by outstanding scientists here and abroad . . . Many doctors and scientists simply do not agree that the lung cancer question has been settled."

Tissue Study Reported

Another speaker, Dr. Oscar Auerbach, chief of laboratory services at the Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, N. J., reported on findings of a 5-year study involving nearly 20,000 tissue samples taken from the lungs of 402 men who died of lung cancer or other causes.

The 402, he reported, 65 were men who had never smoked regularly, and who died of diseases other than lung cancer. There was no sign of lung cancer in the 3324 tissue sections of their lungs, he said.

Dr. Auerbach reported that evidence of lung cancer (which did not cause their deaths) was uncovered in just 4 of 36 other men who smoked less than half a pack of cigarettes a day.

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